

# Michael Hoffman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Faculty Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies  
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## Education

**Princeton University** Princeton, New Jersey  
*Ph.D., Politics* 2016

- Dissertation Committee Members: Amaney Jamal (chair), Chris Achen, Carles Boix
- Winner of Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation in Religion and Politics, American Political Science Association

*M.A., Politics* 2012

**University of Notre Dame** Notre Dame, Indiana  
*B.A., Political Science and Arabic* 2010

- Thesis: "Religion, Conflict, and Regimes: A Two-Branch Model of Non-Democracy"
- Winner of Helen Kellogg Institute Prize for Best Senior Thesis in Comparative Politics

**American University in Beirut,  
Center for Arabic and Middle East Studies** Beirut, Lebanon  
*Certificate in Advanced Intensive Arabic* 2011

## Book

*Faith in Numbers: Religion, Sectarianism, and Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2021)  
Why does religion sometimes increase support for democracy and sometimes do just the opposite? In this project, I present a theory of religion, group interest, and democracy. Focusing on communal religion, I demonstrate that the effect of communal prayer on support for democracy depends on the interests of the religious group in question. For members of groups who would benefit from democracy, communal prayer increases support for democratic institutions; for citizens whose groups would lose privileges in the event of democratic reforms, the opposite effect is present. I test these claims both observationally and experimentally using a variety of data sources, including an original nationally-representative survey in Lebanon. I find that communal religion increases the salience of sectarian identity, and therefore pushes respondents' regime attitudes into closer alignment with the interests of their sect.

## Awards and Fellowships

Research Grant, Kellogg Institute (University of Notre Dame), \$9,700 . . . . . 2020  
Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation  
in Religion and Politics, American Political Science Association . . . . . 2018  
Large Social Sciences Research Grant,  
Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts (University of Notre Dame), \$15,000 . . . . . 2017

Research Grant, Kellogg Institute (University of Notre Dame), \$20,000 . . . . .	2017
Faculty Research Support Program Initiation Grant (University of Notre Dame), \$10,000 . . . . .	2017
Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars . . . . .	2014-2016
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship . . . . .	2010-2013
Center for Study of Religion Graduate Research Fellowship (Princeton University) . . . . .	2013-2016
Research Grant, Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University . . . . .	2010-2013
Helen Kellogg Institute Prize for Best Senior Thesis in Comparative Politics, University of Notre Dame . . . . .	2010
Phi Beta Kappa . . . . .	2010
Pi Sigma Alpha . . . . .	2008

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “The Friday Effect: How Communal Religious Practice Heightens Exclusionary Attitudes,” forthcoming at *British Journal of Political Science* (with Steven Brooke and Youssef Chouhoud).
- “Religious Behavior and European Veil Bans,” accepted at *Politics, Groups, and Identities* (with Emma Rosenberg).
- “Defensive Minoritarianism: Support for Democracy Among Lebanese Christians,” *Religion, State, and Society* 48:5 (2020), pp. 378-397 (with Hannah Early Bagdanov).
- Religion and Tolerance of Minority Sects in the Arab World,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 64:2/3 (2020), pp. 432-458.
- “Religion, Sectarianism, and Democracy: Theory and Evidence from Lebanon,” *Political Behavior* 42 (2020), pp. 1169–120.
- “Religion and Government Legitimacy,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion* (2018).
- “The Diverse Effects of Diversity on Democracy,” *British Journal of Political Science* (Lead Article) 48:2 (2018), pp. 283-314 (with John Gerring and Dominic Zarecki).
- “Communal Religious Practice and Support for Armed Parties: Evidence from Lebanon,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61:4 (2017), pp. 869-902 (with Elizabeth Nugent).
- “Religion in the Arab Spring: Between Two Competing Narratives,” *Journal of Politics* (Lead Article) 76:3 (2014), pp. 593-606 (with Amaney Jamal).
- “The Youth and the Arab Spring: Cohort Differences and Similarities,” *Middle East Law and Governance* 4:1 (2012), pp. 168-188 (with Amaney Jamal).
- “Military Extrication and Temporary Democracy: The Case of Pakistan,” *Democratization* 18:1 (2011), pp. 75-99.

### Book Chapters and Reviews

- Review of Steven Brooke, *Winning Hearts and Votes: Social Services and the Islamist Political Advantage* (Cornell University Press, 2019), in *Mediterranean Politics* (2020).

- Review of Joanne Nucho, *Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon: Infrastructures, Public Services, and Power* (Princeton University Press, 2016), in *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review* 9:1 (2018), pp. 89-93.
- “Arab Muslim Attitudes toward Religious Minorities,” in Allen D. Hertzke and Timothy Samuel Shah, eds., *Christianity and Freedom, Volume II: Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2016). (with Amaney Jamal).
- “Political Attitudes of Youth Cohorts,” in Marc Lynch, ed., *The Arab Uprisings Explained: New Contentious Politics in the Middle East*. New York: Columbia University Press (2014). (with Amaney Jamal).

### Working Papers and Presentations

- “Disappointed and Demobilized: Political Attitudes and Behavior after Defeated Revolution,” under review (with Elizabeth Nugent).
- “Religious Diversity and Democracy: Causation and Mechanisms”
- “Rejecting or Just Disagreeing? Using Open-Ended Questions to Measure the Acceptability of Political Discourses,” (with Nathanael Sumaktoyo and M. Tahir Kilavuz)
- “Rethinking ‘Religiosity’ in Comparative Political Behavior”
- “Abortion Attitudes and Catholic Partisanship,” (with Matthew Tokeshi, 2012).
- “Fertility and Economic Development in the Muslim World,” (with Amaney Jamal, Irfan Nooruddin, and Michael Ross, 2011).
- “Religion, Gender, and Political Participation in Africa: Lessons from Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda,” presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 4, 2009 (with Robert Dowd).

### Teaching

- *Identity Politics* (undergraduate seminar): numerous
- *Middle East Politics* (undergraduate lecture): numerous
- *Political Identity and Behavior* (graduate): Fall 2020
- *Comparative Political Behavior* (graduate): Spring 2017
- *Comparative Politics Field Seminar* (graduate): Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- *Religion and Politics in the Middle East* (junior seminar): Fall 2016
- Teaching assistant for Evan Lieberman (Princeton University), *The Politics of Development*: Spring 2013
- Teaching assistant for Deniz Aksoy (Princeton University), *Comparative Ethnic Conflict*: Fall 2013

### Invited Talks

- Harvard University (2021)

## Professional Service

- Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Comparative Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *Global Society*, *Politics and Religion*, *Journal of North African Studies*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, *PLOS One*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Democratization*, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, *Kellogg Institute Working Paper Series*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*
- Editorial Board, *Political Behavior* (2019-)
- Country Expert, Yemen, *Varieties of Democracy Project* (2011)
- Author of Iraq country report for second wave of Arab Barometer survey (2012)

## Skills

- Languages
  - English (native)
  - Modern Standard Arabic (intermediate)
  - Levantine Arabic (basic)
  - French (intermediate)
- Software
  - Statistical: R, Stata, SPSS, Stan
  - Programming: Visual Basic, VBA
  - Other: HTML, Access, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## Professional Memberships

- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Middle East Studies Association
- Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS)